

Claims (clean version encompassing amendments)

What is claimed is:

1. (once amended) A process for the deprotection of an Acn-, MBzl- and/or tBu-protected thiol in the absence of a silyl chloride which comprises reacting said protected thiol with an acid in the presence of an oxidising agent at a temperature sufficient to effect deprotection and generation of disulphide bonds.
2. (once amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said acid is trifluoroacetic acid.
3. (once amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said oxidising agent is DMSO.
4. (once amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein deprotection is effected using a TFA/DMSO mixture comprising 1 to 20% DMSO.
5. (once amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein said protected thiol is present in a peptide.

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6. (once amended) The process as claimed in claim 5 wherein said peptide comprises at least two tBu protected thiols and/or at least two AcM or MBzl protected thiols.
7. (once amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein tBu protected thiols are deprotected at room temperature.
8. (once amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 wherein AcM or MBzl protected thiols are deprotected at temperatures of 30°C or above.
9. (once amended) The process as claimed in claim 8 wherein AcM or MBzl protected thiols are deprotected at temperatures of 50°C or above.

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